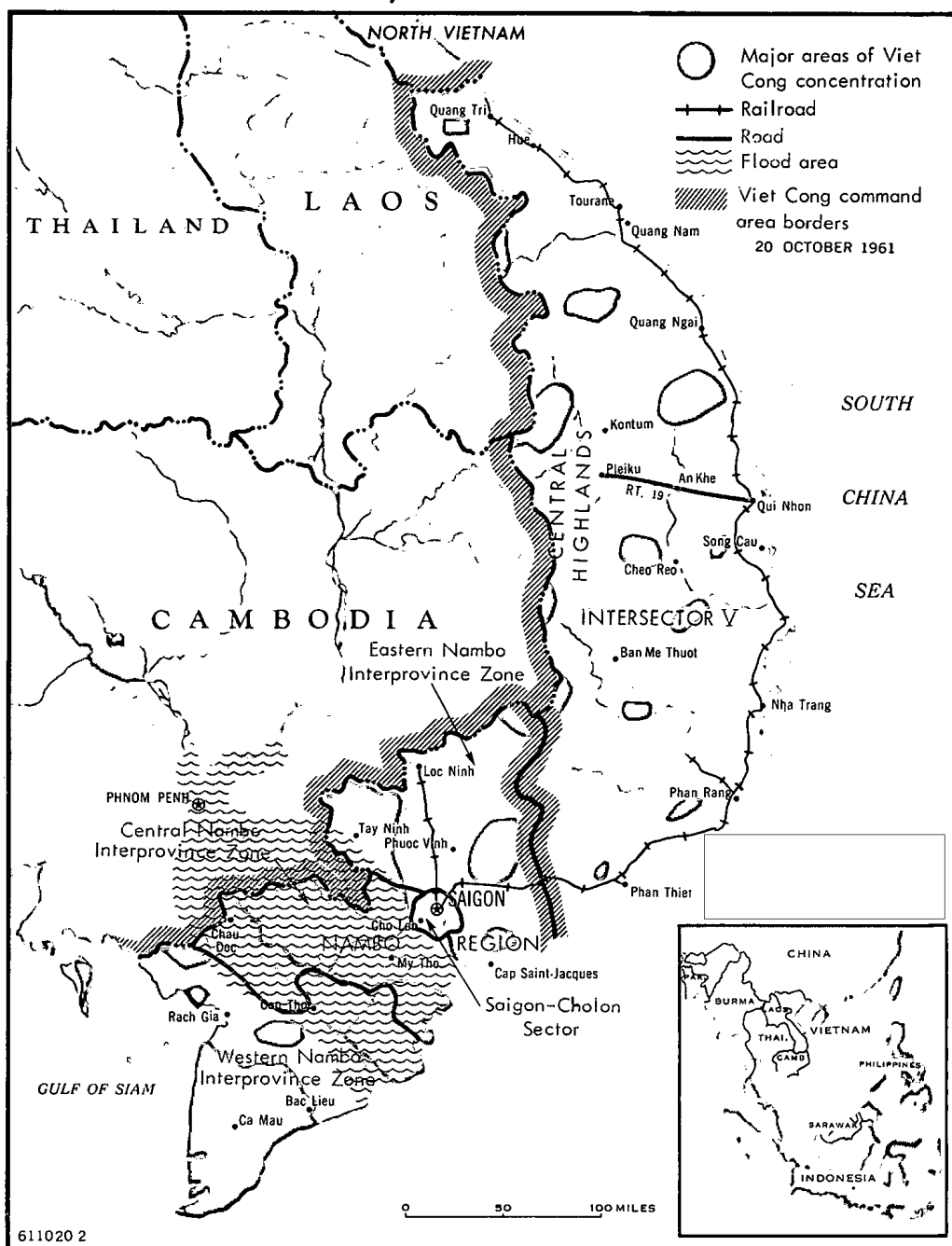


THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

20 OCT 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

Communist Guerrilla Activity in South Vietnam



50X1

1. Chou En-Lai speech
to Soviet Congress

a) In his speech yesterday Chou made a pitch for public unity between Moscow and Peiping ("household affairs should not be solved in the street"), but then went on to indicate that Peiping does not intend to eat humble pie. He criticized Khrushchev's earlier condemnation of the Albanians, calling it a "one-sided censure." He also said that Peiping was grateful for Soviet aid in the past, but was capable of standing on its own and would get through its present economic difficulties with "the work of our own hands";

b) Chou's invective against the US and his stress on the danger of war, struck a more strident note than Khrushchev, but this was pretty much a standard performance;

c) Peiping has finally reported on the contents of Khrushchev's two speeches to the Congress, but not until it could report Chou's speech simultaneously.

2. South Vietnam

A Viet Cong attack which began late on Wednesday is still going on against the town of An Khê. The Communists' objective, consistent with the pattern which has been developing recently, is apparently to sever Saigon's land routes with the northern part of the country.

3. Congo situation

a) There was a clash yesterday between the forces of Tshombé and of the Leopoldville government inside Katanga's border. From the details available, it would appear that Leopoldville, which has been much upset by the UN-Katanga cease-fire agreement, has been testing Katanga border defenses with small patrols; 50X1

b) Elisabethville is once again in an uneasy state. Katangan forces are described as impatient with the cease-fire and anxious to resume fighting against the UN. 50X1

50X1

50X1

4. West Berlin Morale



The latest assessment by our Mission in West Berlin finds that:

- a) The West Berliners are showing an outward confidence but are more uneasy than at any time in the last two years;
- b) government, business and press leaders think that the US underrates the impact which the sealing off of the border has had on the Berlin problem, and;
- c) the Communists have been encouraged to get tougher by the failure of the West to take countermeasures.

50X1

50X1

50X1

5. Burma riled by Nationalist Chinese irregulars



The issue, which Rangoon cites to justify the presence of Communist Chinese troops in the country, has been rekindled by the recent movement of 800 of the Chinese Nationalist from Thailand into Burma. Customary charges of US support for the irregulars are beginning to stir again in the Burmese press. About 3,477 of the irregulars were evacuated to Taiwan early this year but an estimated 3,000-3,500 remain in the area--1,200 in Thailand, 400-600 in Laos and 1,200-1,600 now in Burma.

50X1

50X1

50X1

NOTES

A. There was another nuclear test at Semipalatinsk yesterday 50X2

B. The Syrian government has made unofficial soundings on the availability of US military aid. In addition to arms, they are seeking radio transmitting equipment with which to counter Egyptian propaganda. 50X1

C. One of Adenauer's aides says that a "very favorable" reply to the President's letter is now being drafted. It will say that West Germany wants to contribute toward reaching an acceptable basis for negotiating with Moscow. 50X1

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